

# Rookie Rules

## The Field

- Bases will be 60 feet.
- All players must shake hands at the conclusion of the game.
- There are no walks.
- Each team can make changes to any position during the game.
- Each team must field their entire team. Two (2) players between first and second, two (2) players between second and third. A player may be situated on the pitcher's mound, however he must be behind the mound and either to the left or right of said mound. The rest of the players should be situated in the outfield.
- The game will start when each team has at least 8 players. A team can borrow players from the opposing team so the game can be played.
- Parents may be asked to help in the dugout. It is at the coach's discretion to ask parents to help. There should not be more than four (4) adults, per team on the field at one time as this may cause confusion for the players.  
Defensively, coaches shall be on the field behind short stop another behind the second baseman. Offensively, coaches will be situated as a first base, third base and a coach pitching to the players. A coach or team parent should be situated in the dug-out at all times.
- On an overthrow to first base, the runner shall not advance to second.
- All players should wear a protective cup. CATCHERS A MUST.
- All (i) batters, (ii) batters on deck and (iii) runners must wear a helmet.
- Arguing with umpires, coaches or other players will not be tolerated. The umpire will eject a player or coach if they deem he is being abusive. Ejected members must leave the field of play but may stay in the stands. All ejected

individuals will be required to speak with the Commissioner prior to serving out the remainder of the suspension. If an individual is ejected more than once, they may be subject to full season suspension or permanently banned from coaching or playing.

- If anyone makes contact with an umpire, coach, parent or player he or she will be ejected and possibly barred from ICYP.

### **Gameplay**

- The safety of all participants will be the primary concern at all times.
- **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE IN UNIFORM (JERSEY AND PANTS) TO PLAY.**
- Every child bats. (universal batting order)
- The umpire will call the game from behind home plate.
- With the exception of the pitching position, all infielders must be on the infield dirt, not the infield grass, minimum of 3 feet and maximum of 5 feet off the infield grass. If a team deems that they would like to place a player on the mound, the pitching position will be a minimum 1.5 feet and a maximum of 3 feet, behind and to either the right or left of the pitching mound. Only one player on the pitcher's mound will be allowed. A team cannot situate two players on the mound, one on the left and one to the right. Outfielders shall be positioned in the outfield grass, minimum of 15 feet behind the infield dirt and a maximum number of feet as deemed by the coach. Outfielders are not allowed to play or to be situated on the infield dirt.
- The game will be 5 innings with a 1 ½ hour time limit. An inning cannot start 10 minutes before next scheduled game time.
- An inning constitutes either the entire team batting up or three (3) outs being made, whichever comes first
- If a player is thrown out at first or a force play made this will constitute an out, double or triple play.
- On a hit to the outfield, runners advance at their own risk. Should an outfielder throw the player out at a base or the

infielder tags out a runner, the team will be assessed an out.

- If a team bats out of order during a game a warning will be issued. If the infraction occurs again during the game, the team that has already received a warning will be assessed an out. It is up to the opposing manager or coach to bring such matters to the umpire's attention during the at bat.
- If a team is utilizing a catcher, there is NO dropped third strike rule. The ball is considered dead.
- A team must be able to field a minimum of 8 players. A team may borrow players from the opposing team if they have enough players. A forfeit will be the last resort and will be issued at the discretion of the umpire.
- An official game is one where 3 ½ innings are played.
- If an inning cannot be completed due to darkness, rain, bad weather or time limit the game will revert back to the last completed inning.
- During inclement weather, the head umpire will determine whether the game should continue. In the absence of the head umpire, the umpire in charge of the game will make the decision.
- Only three members (coach, manager and scorekeeper) will be allowed in the dugout during the game.
- Runners may not attempt to Barrel over the catcher. They either need to slide or give themselves up. Failure to slide or give will result in the player being called out.
- No walks are assessed in the Rookie division. After seven (7) swings the player is called out, unless on the seventh (7th) swing is a foul tip. The player shall continue until the 7th swing is a strike or a hit, whichever comes first. Unlimited foul tips during the 7th swing are allowed.
- There is no Infield fly rule.

### **Pitching**

- Coaches will pitch to their own team from a reasonable distance. (minimum of 20 feet and a maximum of 35 feet)
- Coaches will pitch overhand to each batter. .

### **Batting**

- Throwing the bat will not be tolerated. If a hitter throws the bat, a warning will be given to both teams. On the next occurrence the batter will be called out.
- If a batter hits the ball into the outfield the runners may advance to as many bases they can until the outfielder throws the ball back, anywhere, into the infield dirt. If the player is more than half way to the next base they advance to that base, however he must make it. If a runner is tagged or thrown out while advancing to a base he is considered out. If the runner has not made it past the half way point he must go back to the previous base, however can be tagged out.
- Players may use aluminum or wood bats, however the length of the bat must not exceed 31 inches and the diameter of the bat barrel must not exceed 2 ¼ inches..

### **Base Running**

- Managers and Coaches are not permitted to assist runners while the ball is in play.
- No leading or stealing is allowed. If an umpire feels a runner has left early on a hit, the runner is only awarded the next base